

Council on Postsecondary Education  
March 24, 2003

## P-16 Council Update

The state P-16 Council will meet March 13, the day after this agenda book is mailed. Postsecondary and P-12 representatives, business, labor, and other education stakeholders will join the P-16 Council at its meeting to form a policy panel to review the research conducted during the first year of *The American Diploma Project*. The goal of the ADP, working with five states including Kentucky, is to make the high school diploma more meaningful to students, postsecondary institutions, and employers alike by securing an agreement to use high school accountability measures in admissions, placement, and hiring decisions. By establishing the changes that need to be made in high school standards in order to obtain this agreement, states will be assured that they have set the bar currently for high school graduation.

The ADP sponsors directed a review, in each participating state, of the assessments that high school students and college freshmen undergo and organized a comparative analysis of the skills that postsecondary faculty believe are necessary for college success with what is actually taught and tested in high school. The ADP sponsors also examined the high school coursetaking patterns of workers in highly skilled and mid-level jobs to determine the kind of secondary curriculum, based on actual workplace expectations, that is most likely to prepare students for successful employment in a knowledge-based economy. The project also studied the legal implications of using high school accountability measures for advising, placement, and hiring.

The purpose of the March 13 review with important Kentucky stakeholders is to determine which short- and long-term recommendations to make to Kentucky's various policy-making bodies so that Kentucky's high school standards and assessments can be linked to postsecondary and workforce expectations. Sue Pimentel, an ADP consultant, will join Sheila Byrd, director of the ADP, in leading the discussion. Results of the March 13 meeting will be shared at the March 24 council meeting.

The Council on Postsecondary Education approved two new local councils: one, in Warren and Barren counties, is a designated Go Higher community; and the other covers five counties in the Pennyryle region. The process for forming and reviewing local P-16 councils and Go Higher communities has been combined, and Go Higher communities will now be determined competitively. Several

other counties are in the process of developing applications to become Go Higher communities and to form local P-16 councils.

Representatives from Kentucky's local P-16 councils and Go Higher communities met as a group for the second time in February at Elizabethtown Community College. They elected a steering committee and named themselves the Kentucky P-16 Local/Regional Network. They plan to convene regularly prior to the state P-16 Council's quarterly meetings and will report on key issues and activities for local and regional councils at state P-16 Council meetings. They also communicate by a listserv, and a P-16 Web site is in development. All of these efforts will allow communities to share ideas for raising Kentucky's level of educational attainment with one another and with the state P-16 Council.

Local councils also are working to increase dual credit arrangements between high schools and postsecondary institutions and to raise the level of mathematics achievement statewide. The Owensboro Regional Alliance recently joined representatives of the Lexington Area P-16+ Council to help in the creation of dual enrollment opportunities for Lexington area high school students similar to Owensboro's Discover College programs. Northern Kentucky's Council of Partners in Education has sponsored mathematics colloquia to develop a consensus on how better to meet the mathematics needs of high school students across the state.